GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4963
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Genomic Research
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to explore the benefits of using genomics for building a precision medicine approach especially for non-communicable diseases;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to expand research in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the research projects funded by the Government to check the rise of non-communicable diseases in the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) to (c): Yes. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), has taken steps to explore benefit of using genomic research for precision medicine approach. To promote and strengthen genomic research, the Department has sponsored various projects especially mapping the genes responsible for a number of non-communicable diseases. Studies are in progress to delineate the etiopathogenesis of the various diseases which will have impact on early diagnosis and prevention. Apart from this, extramural programs have been initiated by the DST for scientists at large in this area.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has set up a Task Force on Pharmacogenomics in 2012 and has funded 11 projects during 2015-17. The Council has also funded Advance Centre on Genomics Type 2 Diabetes. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also running National Programme to check the rise of non-communicable diseases.